

NEWS

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Assemblymember, 41st District

A MONTHLY ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER TO THE 41st ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
(Including Agoura Hills, Calabasas, Encino, Malibu, Hidden Hills, Lake Sherwood, Oak Park, Pacific Palisades, Port Hueneme, South Oxnard, Santa Monica, Tarzana, Topanga, Westlake Village, and Woodland Hills.)

SEPTEMBER 2004 SPECIAL EDITION

California Air Resources Board Unanimously Adopts First-In-The-World Global Warming Vehicle Emissions Regulations

Last week, I was present at the two-day hearing of the California Air Resources Board (CARB), culminating on Friday, September 24 with the unanimous vote of the CARB to adopt the regulations mandated in my 2002 bill, AB 1493. CARB staff did an exemplary job of drafting the cost-effective and feasible regulations that will begin to reduce green house gas emissions from automobiles and light-duty trucks, and I want to publicly commend them.

California has led the way before in the development of new technologies to reduce emissions. From catalytic converters, to unleaded gas, we have not only set the standard that is frequently copied by other states and countries, but we have driven the development of the technology necessary to meet those standards.

Federal law allows California to set emission standards to meet the compelling and extraordinary needs of this great state. People often ask me "why should California – just one state – adopt our own green house emission standards?" There are many answers.

- As the fifth largest economy in the world, with a population of over 35 million people (more than Canada), we should and can do our fair share to reduce green house gas emissions.
- California contributes more green house gasses from mobile sources (motor vehicles) than stationary sources (factories, etc.)
- California is a state that is, and will continue to be, highly impacted by climate change. Documented evidence shows that the earlier melt of our Sierra snowpack affects the reliability and sustainability of water for our agricultural economy and urban water users. Warmer temperatures bring more pollution to our cities and the Central Valley. Respiratory problems affecting our children and the elderly are dramatically increasing. (Did you know that one of every seven children in Fresno carries an inhaler to school?) California has 1,100 miles of coastline, which is very susceptible to sea level rise. Impacts to ecosystems, loss of property, and saltwater intrusion into our Delta and coastal plains, will increase with climate change.
- A study by Cal-Start of the economic impacts of adopting the AB 1493 regulations projects at least 53,000 new jobs for California.



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AB 1493 Had Broad Support

A broad coalition of supporters backed the passage of this legislation and many more have come on board this year to support the adoption of these historic regulations. They included environmental groups like the Sierra Club, Natural Resources Defense Council, Coalition for Clean Air, Environment California, the Environmental Defense Center, and Bluewater Network. Health organizations joined in support, including the California Medical Association, California Nurses Association, and the American Lung Association. Religious groups, like the Interfaith Council, joined water agencies, cities and counties, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. Business organizations like Environmental Entrepreneurs (Silicon Valley based business leaders) and the Ski Association saw the importance to our economy of adopting the new regulations. Eight bulging mailbags were delivered to the CARB hearing containing letters, many handwritten, urging the Board to adopt the regulations.



The Public Strongly Supports These Actions

What do average Californians think about climate change and the need to regulate green house gasses? A recent poll by the objective non-partisan Public Policy Institute of California asked the following questions:

1. Do you believe the theory that increased CO₂ and other gases released into the atmosphere will, if unchecked, lead to global warming?
71% of all adults said "yes."
2. Do you think it is necessary to take steps to counter the effects of global warming right away?
76% of all adults said "yes."
3. What about the state law [my bill, AB 1493] that requires all automakers to further reduce the emissions of green house gases from new cars in California by 2009? Do you support or oppose this law?
81% of all adults said they "support."

Auto Industry Digs In to Fight the Regulations

In the face of overwhelming popular support and the findings of the world scientific community that CO₂ emissions contribute to global warming, and that global warming poses serious risks to public health and the environment, the American auto industry sent their spokespeople to the CARB hearing in opposition. They dismissed the science, labeled the regulations as "extreme," and promised to sue. This is particularly disappointing. American autoworkers can and should be making the clean cars that consumers demand. Waiting lists for hybrid vehicles are months long. Instead, Detroit's representatives are parked at their lawyers' offices, while foreign automakers are in the fast lane to compliance.

California's Environmental Protection Agency Secretary Terry Tamminen flew down from Sacramento to testify to his strong support and that of Governor Schwarzenegger. The Secretary called the CARB vote "momentous," and "a day to remember."

Air Resources Board Chairman Alan Lloyd, before calling for the vote, characterized Friday as "an extremely important day." He expressed his disappointment that when he had asked the auto industry to come to the table and work with the Board, "the silence was deafening," and that Detroit should be in the lead instead of resisting. Dr. Lloyd concluded by saying that "our action today will certainly wake up the rest of the world. Other parties will follow us." And, in fact, a representative from New York Governor Pataki's office had flown in and testified at the hearing in support of the regulations. New York will be following California's lead, and at least seven other states as well. Even Canada is considering adoption of the California regulations as its national standard.

I agree that the unanimous vote by the California Air Resources Board will be heard around the world. California is again leading the way, and I was very proud to carry the bill that began it all, and to be there at the end when the regulations were formally adopted.

Assemblymember Pavley's Committee Assignments

Appropriations Committee
Arts, Entertainment, Sports, Tourism, and Internet Media Committee
Budget Committee
Education Committee
Transportation Committee
Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee
Select Committee on California Ports
Select Committee on Coastal Protection
Select Committee on the Future of California's Health
Select Committee on National Defense, Technology and Jobs
Select Committee on Sustainability
Select Committee on Title IX
Chair, Select Committee on Air and Water Quality
Chair, Select Committee on Hydrogen and Other Alternative Fuels
Chair, Budget Subcommittee #3 on Resources
Legislative Advisory Committee – Wildlife Conservation Board
Legislative Advisory Committee – California Coastal Conservancy
Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy Board

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